

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 10-14 and 16-19 are pending after cancellation of claims 8, 9 and 15.

II. Allowable Claims 17 and 19

In response to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended claims 17 and 19 to be in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 17 and 19 are in allowable condition.

III. Rejection of Claims 16 and 18

Claims 16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of Wood (U.S. Publication 2005/0178952). Applicants note that Wood is a published U.S. patent application which has a publication date of August 18, 2005, well after the effective U.S. filing date of the present application, February 27, 2003 (the filing date of the parent PCT application). Therefore, Wood is not a valid prior art reference as applied against the present application. Since the Examiner acknowledges that Wong alone cannot support a rejection of the present claims 16 and 18, the rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since the amendment is purely a formal amendment which does not change the claim scope, and since the amendment to claims 16 and 18 was necessitated by the cancellation of the parent claims 8 and 15, the amendment should be entered.

IV. Remaining Claims 10-14

Since remaining claims 10-14 have been amended to depend on claim 18, which has been explained to be in allowable condition, Applicants submit that claims 10-14 are also in allowable condition.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of the present application are in allowable condition. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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